

Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division Coastal Dune Restoration Grant Program



I. Overview

The beach and dune system are important coastal features providing critical habitat for native flora and fauna while supporting robust economic activities associated with tourism and real estate investments throughout Florida. A healthy beach and dune system also provides vital nature-based coastal defenses against the impacts of storms, wave energy and sea level rise. While beach nourishment has been a prominent shoreline protection strategy for many coastal communities, coastal dunes have often been deemphasized or even excluded from shoreline protection projects in favor of strategies that maximize vistas and the expanse of the beach. However, the restoration and preservation of coastal dunes has become an area of growing emphasis locally and nationwide as dunes have been increasingly recognized to significantly reduce the impacts of severe storms and coastal erosion, minimizing impacts to infrastructure and property. Coastal resilience will become increasingly important in the face of sea level rise and the increasing frequency of severe storms associated with climate change.

The Broward County coastline includes 24 miles of beaches, which are actively managed and nourished as part of ongoing local and regional beach nourishment projects. However, a 2014 assessment revealed that less than 65% of our beaches have an integrated dune system, that many existing dunes are degraded and that, in fact, some dunes have been actively removed. This is a tremendous impediment to the longer-term benefits of our beach nourishment projects given the importance of coastal dunes and vegetation in maintaining sand on the beach. Vegetated dunes help to trap and anchor windblown sand and, when well established, dunes enhance coastal defenses by absorbing additional wave energy and maintaining a sand reservoir that helps minimize erosion. Given the pressures on our shoreline, the magnitude of current investments in shoreline protection and the importance of building resilience to the impacts of climate change, it is necessary that we prioritize integration of coastal dune restoration and preservation as prominent component in our shoreline protection

projects and work with local communities to build a shared appreciation for the importance of coastal dunes in improving community resilience to climate impacts.

II. Purpose

The purpose of the Coastal Dune Restoration Grant Program is to promote the restoration of dunes where they are absent and to enhance and preserve the quality of existing dunes along Broward County's shoreline. In addition, the program will help build community awareness about the importance of nature-based methods, such as dune restoration and enhancement, as essential and cost-effective management practices that will contribute to shoreline resilience.

III. Objectives

1. Promote dune restoration to strengthen the County shoreline's natural defense against storms, beach erosion, and sea-level rise.
2. Increase community awareness and participation in dune restoration projects to help build resilient coastal communities.
3. Enhance the quality of sea turtle nesting habitat by using dunes to reduce shorefront lighting impacts on nesting sea turtles and their hatchlings.

IV. Approach

Broward County will provide grant funding on a reimbursable cost-share basis to support new dune restoration and enhancement projects. The grants will be available to coastal municipalities, coastal property owners, condominium associations, and non-profit organizations. Grant awards will not exceed \$5,000 and will require a 50% cost share (either cash or in-kind services). Community participation and partnerships are encouraged. Projects must be completed within one year of the grant award. Reimbursement of the applicant's verified expenses will be made upon project completion and acceptance by Broward County.



**APPLICATION FORM
Coastal Dune Grant Program**

I. PROJECT INFORMATION

Project Name: _____

Applicant Name: _____

Contact Person: _____ Title: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Amount Requested: _____ Amount Matched: _____

Project Manager: _____ Telephone: _____

II. AUTHORIZED SIGNATURE

As the duly authorized representative of the applicant, I hereby certify that all parts of the application package have been read and understood; that all application requirements have been met; and that all information submitted herein is true and correct and represents the desire and intent of the applicant to install and maintain the proposed project according to the plans, specifications and costs attached herein, and further that I understand that any expenditures made prior to a formal "Notice to Proceed" from Broward County shall not be eligible under this grant program. Additionally, I certify that I will take active measures to ensure the continued maintenance of the project in order for the dune to develop and provide the utmost storm protection and environmental benefits for as long as practically possible.

Authorized Signatory: _____ Title: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip Code: _____

Telephone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Signature: _____ Date: _____

Submit complete application package by email to **CoastalDunes@broward.org** by **July 10, 2015**. If you prefer to submit hard copy documents please mail to: Coastal Dune Restoration Grant Program, Broward County EPCRD, 115 South Andrews Avenue, Room 329 H, Fort Lauderdale, Florida 33301. Applicants will be notified by email upon receipt of the grant application.

III. APPLICATION CRITERIA AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION:

A. PROJECT PLAN: Detail your plan to complete the dune restoration project; provide the qualifications of the key personnel that will be involved.

B. PROJECT SITE: Each application must be accompanied by a planting plan or other documents depicting the location and design of the project. Drawings shall be to scale and no larger than 8 ½ inches by 11 inches.

C. PROJECT BUDGET AND TIMELINE: Detail your project budget, including a description of how grant funds will be spent. Explain your cost share commitment and provide a short project-timeline.

D. PHOTOGRAPHS: Provide three (3) 4 inches by 6 inches color images of existing site conditions.

E. EVIDENCE OF PUBLIC SUPPORT: Attach no more than three (3) pages of evidence of public and/or private support of the project that may include: written endorsements from elected officials, homeowner associations, civic organizations, adjacent businesses, Chambers of Commerce, or a resolution from local government, etc. Endorsements must be written and included in application package.

F. EXPERIENCE: Describe involvement you have in completing similar projects.

G. COMMUNITY OUTREACH: If community outreach is planned during the project, provide a brief description of the efforts to be made and anticipated benefits to participants.

H. PARTERSHIPS: Describe any partnerships or collaborative efforts that will be formed or undertaken to complete the project.

I. MEDIA OUTREACH: Provide your plan for media outreach including traditional and social media.

J. STATEMENT OF PROPERTY OWNERSHIP: Attach a statement of property ownership or right-of-use by the property owner.

IV. GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS AND REQUIREMENTS

A. ELIGIBILITY: Coastal municipalities, coastal property owners, condominium associations, civic associations and non-profit organizations in Broward County; one grant per applicant, per cycle.

B. GRANT AMOUNTS: The maximum amount requested may not exceed \$5,000.

C. COST SHARING: Applicants are required to provide a minimum 50% match of the grant amount requested in cash, public, private or corporate contributions, or direct in-kind services.

D. FUNDING SOURCE: The 2015 Grant Announcement is support by Broward County, with \$20,000 allocated for the Coastal Dune Restoration Grant Program.

E. GRANT AGREEMENT: The applicant understands that funds will be distributed by the County as provided for in an executed agreement between the County and the applicant. Only projects started after a formal Notice-to-Proceed has been issued by the County are eligible for reimbursement.

F. CODES, ORDINANCES, and PERMITS: The applicant shall meet and comply with all applicable codes and ordinances and shall obtain all necessary permits prior to beginning work. The applicant must be aware that a Florida Department of Environmental Protection field permit is required for dune restoration projects and a copy of the permit must be provided to Broward County prior to starting the project.

G. SCHEDULE: Grant applications must be received by 5:00 pm on (enter date), 2015. After review, staff recommendations will be presented to the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division Director. Applicants will be notified by Broward County after (enter date), 2015. The applicant must complete the project within one year of the final execution date on the grant agreement.

H. CLOSE-OUT REPORT: The applicant shall submit a final close-out report summarizing project activities and identifying how the grant funds were spent.

I. REIMBURSEMENT: Applicant may apply for reimbursement after project installation, submission of the expense report, and upon a final inspection and written acceptance by Broward County.

J. PLANTS AND INSTALLATION:

1. Only native sea oats and native dune plants shall be used.
2. Relative plant composition of composite plantings shall be 80% sea oats / 20% other appropriate native frontal dune plants.

3. All plants purchased and installed shall be of the highest quality.
4. Sea oats shall be 8 inches to 16 inches in height as measured from the top of the root ball to the top of the shoots.
5. Sea oats shall be planted at a minimum of 6 inches deep as measured from the top of the root ball to the sand surface.
6. Plantings shall be made in shore-parallel rows. The rows shall be staggered mid-way.
7. Plant spacing shall be 12 inches to 18 inches apart.
8. The planting area shall be fenced with post and ropes to protect the new plantings.
9. Three (3) 4 inches by 6 inches color images of project site shall be provided after the plants are installed.

K. WARRANTY: The applicant shall warranty all plants for a period of six (6) months. At six months, the project shall be considered a success if 80% survival of installed plantings is achieved.

V. GRANT APPLICATION RANKING

A. RANKING The grant applications will be reviewed by staff from the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division according to the criteria outlined below.

Review Criteria	Ranking
Quality of Proposal	1-10
Matching Funds	1-10
Cost Effectiveness	1-10
Partnerships and Local Support	1-10
Experience Completing Similar Projects	1-10
Environmental Education and Community Outreach	1-5
Media Outreach	1-5
Maximum Score	60 Points

B. BONUS POINTS AND TIE-BREAKER: In the event that any applications receive the same score they will be further ranked according to the following:

1. The Director of the Environmental Planning and Community Resilience Division may award five (5) Bonus Points to applications that exhibit exceptional qualities.
2. The ranking shall be prioritized by the date and time the grant applications were submitted to Broward County.